### **HELLO AGAIN**

### **VOL. 24 NO. 3**

MAY - JUN 1993

A PERSONAL NOTE: Radio lost one its giants with the death of Carlton E. Morse on May 24 at the age of 91. Carlton came to our convention several years ago where hundreds of people had a chance to talk with him. I Love a Mystery has a very large following and work is being done today to preserve and revive this series...Ron Barnett informed me of the death of his mother, Edna, on March 20. Many of Ron's friends knew her...Just a reminder that only 4 sheets of paper (similar to the ones in HA) can be mailed for 29 cents. A fifth sheet will go over one ounce and require another 23 cents.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: I have a correction about the programs in New York. They are on WQEW (1130 AM) at Saturday from 7 to 7:30 pm. There are 39 weeks of shows including Jack Benny and Burns and Allen that started on April 10th...In New Haven, The Shubert Radio Theater presented its second live radio performance on May 9 with Ezra Stone and Barney Beck participating in an Aldrich Family Re-creation. There are plans for many more performances. The first two were not open to the general public; those that follow will be...Arthur Tracy will celebrate his 94th birthday on June 25th. If you wish to contact him, write Arthur at 350 West 57th St. #19C, New York, NY 10019 (212) 246-7306. Arthur is still active with personal appearances and broadcast performances. He is celebrating his 70th anniversary in radio.

RE-CREATIONS: More Information: WBAI, 99.5 FM, in New York announced the official start of a new radio theater program beginning Saturday, May, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The station is looking for high quality radio drama, comedy, monologues, poetry, etc. If you have any to submit, contact Andrews Phillips and Associates at 718-398-2174. Joe Bevilacqua will host the new series. Scheduled to far are programs written by Norman Jayo, Joe Bevilacqua & Robert Cirasa, Charlie Morrow, Phillip Suraci, Jeff Ward and Mitchell Pearson...The American Radio Theater, 3035 23rd St., Dept. RSWC, San Francisco, CA 94110 is looking for scripts for its 1993 ART Radio Script Writing competition. To receive all necessary contest materials, write to above address and include a SASE (business size)...Bob Simpson and The Mighty Simpson Art Players, 4565 SE 57th Ln., Ocala, FL 32671 perform OTR shows for local groups in their area...John Barber has over 180 scripts available for use. Prices range from \$3 to \$6. Proceeds benefit The Old-time Radio Theater in New Orleans.

OTR BROADCASTS: An up to date listing is enclosed.

<u>COMPUTER NETWORKS</u>: Bob Burnham mentions that Macintosh software available for those on computer networks are White Knight, Microphone II or Zterm.

<u>ULTIMATE LOG</u>: If you have any corrections or additions to my Ultimate Log, please send them to me. I will issue annual updates. I am hoping all dealers and traders who acquire new programs will let me know. This is the only way I can update the book.

CONVENTION 1993: Dates are October 21 – 23, 1993, again at the Holiday Inn – North in Newark, NJ. Tentative plans include re-creating Tim Corbett with much of the original cast.

<u>PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:</u> Tune Into Yesterday (Orca of England), Issue 14; articles on The shadow; Raffles; Hi Gang; Tony Hancock...NARA News, Vol. 20, #3; articles on

the first radio broadcast; reprint of first issue... Tape Squeal, Mar - Apr; articles on squealing tape; problems and solutions on Long-Term Tape Performance; FBI in Peace and War... Radio Recall, Mar - Apr; articles include Little Orphan Annie; Portland's American Advertising Museum...Past Times, Spring; Many thanks for the favorable review of my Ultimate Log; articles on Harold Lloyd, Ukulele Ike, a review of a book about Ish Kabibble...Abbott & Costello Quarterly, #19; articles on Hillary Brooke, Jean Yarbrough...The Illustrated Press, April, Many thanks for mention of my logs by Frank Boncore; article on Kay Kyser...May; article on Charlie Chan...Daily Sentinel, May - Jun, articles on radio's anthologies, Arthur Godfrey...SPERDVAC Radiogram, May; article on Jerry Hausner. They are also looking for information about following 4 shows. I am not aware of them are they are probably local or regional programs: What's on Your Mind (1940, CBS); The Ghost Walks (1946, CBS); The Adventures of Dr. Hunt (1940); Retribution (1946 – 47, ABC – West coast)... Wavelenghts, Vol. 8 # 4; article on FM's early problems... Tune In, May; one man's opinion on the best radio shows; log on the 1952 - 53 season of Tarzan...Nostalgia Digest, Jun - Jul; articles on Don McNeill, WW II V-discs, Roy Rogers, Bob and Ray...Old Time Radio Digest, Mar - Apr, Reprints of articles on Ezra Stone and Red Skelton.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: Last month I mentioned the book, Al Jolson, A Bio-Discography by Larry Kiner and Philip Evans. This 832-page book lists every song recorded or sung by Al Jolson, all is radio and TV shows, movies. It is very thorough. You can buy it through the Al Jolson Society at a reduced rate...\$67.50. Make checks payable to Dolores Kontowicz, 11520 West James Ave., Franklin, WI 53132. Dolores is president of the Society.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS: The first Abbott and Costello Convention will be held August 20 - 22 at the Ramada Inn in Clifton, NJ. For details write A & C convention, Box 1117, Laurence, NJ 08879: (908) 566-1093; FAX (908) 566-7859...Kathy O'Connell sent me information about the Pavek Wireless Museum, 3515 Raleigh Ave., St. Louis Park, MN 55416 (612) 926-8198. It contains broadcasting equipment of all kinds, donated by a collector in the area. Director is Steve Raymer...Yesterday USA Superstation is having their third annual reunion from July 10 through July 16 in Richardson, Texas. Many activities are planned. For full details and costs, write to YUSA Superstation, 2001 Plymouth Rock, Richardson, TX 75081 (214) 690-3636...An Al Jolson Festival is being held July 8 - July 11 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel and the Friars Club. For information contact Harry Rhinehart, 12 Mauger Rd., Elverson, PA 19520.

<u>LOGS</u>: Ray Stanich's Logs are now available from me. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will go to Ray's Estate. Details are enclosed.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: John Barber, Box 70711, New Orleans, LA 70172 has for sale a photocopy of Jack Armstrong Comics from September 1949 for \$6. John also has on cassette many Superman, Our Miss Brooks, Shadow...Bob Burnham (BRC), Box 2645, Livonia, MI 48151 (313) 721-6070 has a new summer supplement including several new First Nighter Programs. Bob also puts out a Gateway Online Macintosh User Group Newsletter. If you have a modem and wish to participate contact Bob...Received latest catalog from Vintage Broadcasts (Andy Blatt), 42 Bowling Green, Staten Island, NY 10314. Highlights include The Chase, 21st Precinct, Linda's First Love, Consider Your Verdict, Tom Corbett.

NEW ADDRESSES: Clyde Benge, 2502 Delaware Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648...Roger Hill, 2161 Whitman Way #31, San Bruno, CA 94066...Michael Langer, 4865 Tarrington Dr., Barrington, IL 60010 (708) 776-8774.

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NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: Dick Hill, 1802 Bateman, Hastings, NE 68901 looking for many Fred Allen on cassette...Bill McKenna, 47 Haynes St., East Boston, MA 02128...Harry Fleetwood, 244 W 72nd St., New York, NY 10023...Sol Magid, 39 west 70th St., New York, NY 10023...Stuart Yedwab, c/o Lincoln Middle School, Lafayette Ave., Passaic, NJ 07055...John Fawcett, RR2, Middle Tpke, Storrs, CT 06268 (203) 429-9228. John is involved with various activities including collecting old cereal boxes, radio premiums, Lone Ranger and other WXYZ program memorabilia, 1930's Disney items, others. He buys and sells. John is especially looking for autographed WXYZ Radio shows photos and scripts; everything by Brace Beemer, John Todd, etc.; original art of Lone Ranger, Green Hornet, Sgt. Preston; WYXIE Wonderland by Dick Osgood. Tom Garcia, Box 15186, Tucson, AZ 85708 is looking for information on Dave Miller, who among other things, had a country-western show on WPAT in Patterson, NJ during 1949 - 1950...Tom also heard a talk by Artie Shaw on March of this year and wrote a paper about what he said. It is written as if Artie were talking. Send me a SASE for a copy...Dick Ayers, 316 Main St., Plaistow, NH 03865 (603) 382-4077 has 5 cartons of blank 7" gray plastic reels, each containing 200 of more reels. He also has 25 10 1/2 blank metal reels in boxes (DAK). Cost would be UPS charges and packaging charges. Please send a SASE or call if interested and indicate what you would like. Dick would prefer not to break up the boxes...Mike Hamm, 3393 Wessex Ct., Loveland, OH 45140...Joan Myers, 214 Hillcrest Ave., Woodridge, NJ 07075...Matthew Mark Drew, 3321 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50316...June Johnson, 304 Brixton Rd. South, Garden City South, NY 11530 is looking for a wire recorder, preferable a Webster Chicago Wire Recorder, so she can transfer her wire recordings to cassette...James Gungoll, Box 1422, Enid, OK 73702...Stewart Lyons, 4602 Beechwood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410) 719-7985 is looking for information about Herb Jepko who had a late night talk show from Salt Lake City about 20 years ago. It was called something like the Naughty Nightcap Show...Mark Paswinski, 2030 - 44th St., Highland, IN 46322. Mark is very much interested in the Great Gildersleeve... Wallis Antuck, 3815 Waverly Hills Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 484-8607...Wallis is very interested in Buddy Clark and would like any show he was on... David Minars, 24 Steers St., Staten Island, NY 10314... Paul Gagne, 82 Walker St., Laconia, NH 03246 wants all information on The Passing Parade and all tapes, especially The Man Who Lived in a Cupboard... Valerie Hughes (Adventures in Cassettes), 5353 Nathan Ln.., Plymouth, MN 55442; 1-800-328-0108...Sam Frank, Box 417, Los Angeles, CA 90078 is writing a book on The Halls of Ivy and needs information on certain radio shows...Paul Kotke, 36 S. Prior Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105...Karen Spiegel, 1175 Amherst Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA (310) 820-1988 has the movie and TV rights to ILAM and I Love Adventure and is looking for scripts and/or synopses of each story.

**Žeb and Sal**, a 29 minute film/video produced by THOMASFILMS, won a Gold Award at the Worldfest – Houston International Film Festival in April, 1993. It is the story of two ladies, who in the 1930's, had a comedy act which they performed on stage and radio in the Mid-South. Today, over fifty years later, the same two ladies recreate their comedic characters in this award winning film. Video cassettes (VHS), which contain an original radio skit performed by the ladies in 1939 over WMC, Memphis, Tennessee, are available from THOMASFILMS, Box 153, Iuka, MS 38852 (601) 423-3333. Cost is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

D.R.H. Knox, 31A Arlington Sq. Apts., Greenville, NC 27858...George Kelly, Box 1172, HCCD, Raymond, MS 39154...Jackie Thompson, Box 118781, Cincinnati, OH 45211.. Jon Fessler, Box 23276, Portland, OR 97281. Jon is involved with the USA Network radio shows...Tim Oster, 5141 Lynn Rd., Greendale, WI 53129...Bill Natowich, 145 Burton Rd., Beacon Falls, CT 06403 is looking for a video of the New Years concert from Vienna, broadcast on New Years Day, 1992. Bill also has 200 7" reel OTR shows if anyone wants them; also has 3 reel machines for sale (Ampex; Magacord; Tanberg)...Ed Ginsburg, 3011 Kent Rd., Louisville, KY 40205. Ed wants logs of Baby Snooks, Bickersons, Charlie McCarthy, Burns and Allen, Red Skelton...Gordon Joseloff, 150 North Ave., Westport, CT 06889. Gordon's father, Stanley Joseloff worked in radio for many years. He was producer of Eddie Cantor Radio Hour and ex-

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ecutive producer of Screen Guild Radio Theater, Take it Or Leave it, Life of Riley, Philip Morris Follies...Ken Riebold, 28-48 201 St., Bayside, NY 11360.

OLD FRIENDS: H. Edgar Cole, Box 3509, Lakeland, FL 33802; Phone or FAX (813) 682-2235 has a Sony CCP-100 Cassette Duplicator, 1 x 1, 30 ips monaural. Ferrite Heads, direct drive, excellent. Has made about 700 copies. 1/1 modulation radio. With operator, service manual and dust cover. Best offer: \$250 minimum...Francis Pelletier, 24 Irving St., Salem, MA 01970 is looking for the complete jingle "Pickle in the Middle."...Patrick King, Box 20761, Waco, TX 76702 corrected a couple of items I mentioned last issue. Note the correct Box number above. Also he is not selling but is trading the uncirculated Columbia Workshops he has...Spiros Kopiopoulos, 149 Autumn Ridge Rd., Montgomery, IL 60538 is still looking for World War II news broadcasts...Francis Rylance, 66 Newton St. #2, Lawrence, MA 01843 is looking for a log of The Black Museum...David Siegel, 419 Granite Spring Rd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 has a very good copy of Tune in Yesterday by John Dunning for sale for \$75...Darwin Maurer, 315 Market St., Perkasie, PA 18944 is looking for all shows with John Charles Thomas.

IN FOND MEMORY: Edna Amadon Toney, Apr 13, 79; writer, actress (Kraft Music Hall)...Pinky Lee, Apr 3, 85; comic, children's television host. On radio in Tonight at Hoagy's, Carefree Carnival, Railroad Hour...Jerry Hausner, Apr 1, 83; Radio actor (Big Town, Sam Spade)...Patricia Peardon, Apr 22, 69; stage and radio actress, sculptor (Life Begins, Orphans of Divorce). Patricia attended our convention...Leslie Charteris, Apr 16, 85; British mystery writer who created the character of Simon Templer (The Saint) which was adapted for radio, television and movies...Sy Howard, April 30, 77; comic writer; created My Friend Irma; wrote for Danny Thomas, Milton Berle, Jack Benny.

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887; FAX (203) 281-1322

### Logs of Ray Stanich

### Order from Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514

		****	1.50
A portion of the sales will be given		Lights Out	.50
to the estate of Ray Stanich. Please of	rder at	NBC Star Playhouse NBC Theater of the Air and World's	.50
least \$5.00 worth of logs. For every	\$3.00,	Greatest Novels	3.00
please add 50 cents for P & H.		Nick Carter and Chick Carter	6.00
		Once Upon a Tune	.50
		Orson Welles Almanac	.50
		Orson Welles Theater (Lady Esther)	.50
Adventurers Club (1947 - 48)	\$.50	Palmolive Beauty Box Theater	1.00
Andrews Sisters (1944 – 46)	.50	Perry Mason (Partial: 1943 – 47)	1.00
Arch Oboler Programs including A O	Plays, Everyman's	Philco Radio Hall of Fame	1.00
Theater, Everything for the Boys,	Free World	Philco Radio Playhouse	.50
Theater, Plays For Americans	1.50	Philip Morris Playhouse, Johnny Prese	
Arthur Hopkins Presents	.50	Great Moments From Great Plays	4.00
Bell Telephone Hour	6.00	Popeye, the Sailor (1936 – 37)	.50
Big Show, The	1.00		.50
Cabin B – 13	1.50	Presenting Boris Karloff	4.00
Casey, Crime Photographer	7.00	Prudential Family Hour Prudential Family Hour of Stars	1.50
Cavalcade of America	10.00		.50
Celebrity Club	1.00	Radio City Playhouse Radio Reader's Digest	4.00
Chicago Theater of the Air	4.00	Radio Reader's Digest Railroad Hour	.50
Contented Hour (1942 – 45)	2.50		.50
Crime Does Not Pay	1.00	Request Performance	2.00
Curtain Time	1.00	Richard Diamond (Partial)	4.00
Damon Runyon Theater	.50	Romance Rudy Vallee (Fleischmann Hour and R	
Dangerously Yours and Matinee The	ater 1.50		Oyai Ociatiii
Dark Fantasy	1.50	Hour: Dramas performed:	3.00
Death Valley Days	8.00	1932 – 39	1.00
Dr. Christian	8.00	Sears Radio Theater	4.00
Electric Hour, The	4.00	Silver Theater	.50
Electric Theater	1.00	Somerset Maugham Theater	2.50
Encore Theater (1946)	.50	Stage Door Canteen	.50
Encores from Bell Telephone Hour	.50	Star and the Story, The	.50
Favorite Story	1.00	Star For a Night Starlight Theater	.50
First Nighter	12.00	Stars in the Air	.50
General Electric Theater	.50	Tales of Fatima	.50
Good News (1937 – 40)	1.50	Tales of Tomorrow	.50
Grand Marquee	.50		.50
Great Moments in Music	3.50	Tarzan (1952 - 53)	.50
Great Scenes From Great Plays	.50	Tell It Again	.50
Green Lama, The	.50	Terror By Night Texaco Star Theater	3.00
Hallmark Playhouse/Hall of Fame	3.50		.50
Harvest of Stars, The	3.00	Theater, USA	.50
Helen Hayes (Textron Theater)	.50	This is Hollywood	.50
Hollywood Hotel	3.50	This is My Best This is War	.50
Hollywood Players	.50	Time for Love	.50
Hollywood Sound Stage	.50	Tish	.50
Hollywood Star Playhouse	1.50	To the President	.50
Hollywood Star Time	1.00	Two on a Clue	.50
Hour of Mystery	.50		.50
Inner Sanctum	6.50	Vick's Open House	9.00
Inspector Thorne	.50	Voice of Firestone Westinghouse Program	3.00
Intrigue	.50	Woolworth Hour	2.50
Jungle Jim	4.00	World Security Workshop	.50
Kenny Baker Program (1944)	.50	world security workshop	.50
Knickerbocker Playhouse	.50		

### OTR BROADCASTS

STATION	FREO.	PLACE	HOST IF KNOWN	<u>DAYS</u>	TIME
WADS - AM	690	Ansonia, CT	Tom Chelsea	Sat	9 - 10 pm
KJBL - AM	590	Austin, TX		Sun	3 - 7 pm
KBOL - AM	1490	Boulder, CO		Sun	9 – 12 mid
WICC - AM	600	Bridgeport, CT	When Radio Was	Sun	7 – 11 pm
WEBR - AM	970	Buffalo, NY		Sat - Sun	8 - 9 pm
WBBM-AM	780	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Mon-Fri	12 mid – 1 am
WBBM-AM	780	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Sat -Sun	8-10 pm
WNIB - FM	97.1	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Sat	1 - 5 pm
KSPC – FM	88.7	Claremont, CA	Randy Skretvedt	Sun	3 - 4 pm 9 - 10 am
WCLI - AM	1450	Corning, NY	Gary Yoggy	Sun	12 – 4 pm
KNUS – AM	710	Denver, CO	John Rayburn	Sun Sat - Sun	10 pm
WCAR - AM	1090	Detroit, MI	Bob Burnham	Mon - Fri	
WXYZ - AM	1270	Detroit, MI	Bob Carroll	Wed	3 hours
KAPR - AM	930	Douglas, AZ Dunkirk, NY	Doo Caron	Mon - Fri	
WDOE - AM	1410 94.3	Elgin, IL	Carl Amari	Mon - Fri	
WJKL - FM	94.3	Elgin, Il	Carl Amari	Sun	8 - 11 pm
WJKL - FM WXFM - FM	105.9	Elmwood Pk, IL	Wayne Messmer	Sun	2 - 4 pm
WSWI - AM	820	Evansville, IN	Gordon Kelley	Sat	11:30 am - 2 pm
KSER – FM	90.7	Everett, WA	Larry Siskind	Sun	6 – 7 pm
WAJD - AM	1390	Gainesville, FL	Bob White	Sat & Sun	
WUFT - FM	89.1	Gainesville, FL	Bill Sabis	Sun	9 - 11 pm
WWSC - AM	1450	Glens Falls, NY	D Richardson, W Mitch	.Sun	8 - 10:30 pm
WPOP - AM	1410	Hartford, CT	Art Flemming	Sat	8 - 10 pm
WRCQ - AM	910	Hartford, CT	Phil Callan	Mon - Sat	12 - 5 am
KTRH - AM	740	Houston, TX		Sun	9:30 - 11 pm
KCMO - AM	810	Kansas City, MO		Sun	6 - 10 am
WBZW - AM	1040	Knoxville, TN		Sun	1 - 3 pm
KRWG - FM	90.7	Las Cruces, NM	Fred Dabner	Sat	<b>7</b> 0
KANU - FM	92.5	Lawrence, KS	Darrell Brogden	Sat	7 - 8 pm
KNX - AM	1070	Los Angeles, CA		Daily	9 - 10 pm
WJUL - FM	91.5	Lowell, MA	Wayne Braverman	Sun	3 - 6 pm
KKSU - AM	580	Manhattan, KS	Ralph Titus	Fri	2 - 2:30 pm
KFAI - FM	90.3	Minneapolis, MN		Mon	2 pm
CFMI - FM	101.1	New West., BC	Brian Arnold	Sun Sun	8:30 - 11 pm 12 - 3 pm
KCSN - FM	88.5	Northridge, CA	B Lynes, B Watkins	Sat	7:30 - 9 pm
WBAI - FM	99.5	NYC, NY	Max Schmid	Wed	11 - 12 mid
WFUV - FM	90.7	NYC, NY	Frank Margesson	Sat	7 - 7:30
WQEW - AM		NYC, NY Pasadena, CA	Gassman brothers	Sun	5 - 7 pm
KPCC - FM WCBU - FM	89.3 89.9	Peoria, IL	Frank Thomas	Sun	7 - 8:30 pm
WDUV - FM		Pittsburgh, PA	Talle Thomas		2 - 3, 8 - 10 pm
WTKN - AM		Pittsburgh, PA			7 - 7:30 pm
WEDO - AM	810	Pittsburgh, PA		Mon - Th	u 3 - 4 pm
KBOO - FM	90.7	Portland, OR	Ern Houd	Sun	8:30 - 10:30 pm
KZUU - FM	90.7	Pullman, WA	Paul Brians	Sun	6 - 7 pm
WINY - AM	1350	Putnam, CT		Sun	9 - 9:30 am
KWEB - AM	1270	Rochester, MN	Frank West	Sun	10 - 12 mid
KSJN - AM	1330	Rochester, MN		Sun	6 pm
WHAM - AM	1 1180	Rochester, NY			i 10 - 11 pm
WPRS - FM	88.3	Rockland, MA	A Chapman, B Bowers	Fri	1 - 2 pm
KLBB - AM	1400	St. Paul, MN	"When Radio Was"	Mon - Pi	i 8 – 9 pm
KLAF - AM	1230	Salt Lake City	Gayle, Morgan	Can	5:30 am - 12 n
KALW - FM		San Francisco	Bud Carry	Sat Mon En	10 - 11 am i 11 - 12 mid
KFRC - AM	610	San Francisco	"When Radio Was"	Sun	8 - 11 pm
	100	Cl T A		M, W, F	
KCOZ - FM	100	Shreveport, LA			i 10 - 11 pm
KXLY - AM		Spokane, WA		Sun	11 pm
CHRE - FM	105.7 [ 680	St. Catherine St. Joseph, MO	Victor Ives		i Mid - 1 am
KMAQ - AM		Syracuse, NY	Art Pierce	Fri	9 - 10 pm
WRVO - FM WRVO - FM			Bill Shigley		nu 9:30 - mid
WRVO - FM		Syracuse, NY	Bill Shigley	Sun	9 - mid
CHUM - FM				Sun	11 pm
CKNW - AN		Vancouver	Jack Cullen	Mon - Sa	at 11 - 11:30 pm
WCRB - FM				Sat	10 - 10:30 pm
WAMU - FN			John Hickman	Sun	7 - 11 pm

This is as up to date as possible as of June 1, 1993. When Radio Was, Charlie Michelson and USA Network were unable to supply me with a listing of stations.

## AUDIO/VIDEO PLUS

EDITORS: JOANNE TANGORRA & JOHN ZINSSER

## An Audiotape Goes Gold

Bantam's L'Amour series tops one million in sales

### BY JOANNE TANGORRA

In a market where sales of even the most successful audiotapes rarely approach the high figures of their bestselling book counterparts, Bantam Audio last month marked a major milestone with the shipment of its one-millionth audiotape by popular frontier novelist Louis L'Amour. Bantam, which in the last five years has published 35 audio adaptations of L'Amour's fiction, hit the one-million mark with the release of The Town No Guns Could Tame, and will continue to expand the line with the spring and summer release of four additional titles, including Bowdrie Follows a Cold Trail, McQueen of the Tumbling K, The Law of the Desert Born (a boxed set) and West of the Tularosas.

According to Jenny Frost, vice-president and publisher of Bantam Audio, "L'Amour has become one of the bestselling novelists in the audio medium, and with this million-copy landmark we're making our place in audio sales history." Adds Beau L'Amour, the author's son and a supervising producer of the audio line, "It's ironic. I recently discovered in my father's journals that *The Towns No Guns Could Tame* was the first western story he ever sold, back in the 1930s."

In addition, the L'Amour line is getting greater play through the recently released Louis L'Amour Theater, a nationally syndicated weekly radio program based on Bantam's full-cast audio dramatizations of the author's classic tales of the Wild West and autobiographical accounts of his own adventures. The show-produced jointly by Bantam Audio, the L'Amour family and the California-based company CKW & Associates-has signed up 116 affiliates since it hit the airwaves in the fall. Says Frost, "The show grew out of our desire to see the programs reach an even wider audience. We knew we had an ongoing source of new programming and felt that there was an audience for the dramatizations."

In fact, a distinguishing feature of the L'Amour audio line is its multivoice dramatizations (with the exception of a few single-voice narratives), complete with original music and sound effects. This approach reflects L'Amour's desire to "give listeners something special," according to

Beau L'Amour, who has been instrumental in the production of the tapes since the inception of the line and particularly since his father's death in 1989.

"When we started talking about the audio line in 1986, my father said that his main concern was always to make sure that the audience got as much value as possible-in fact, he had asked Bantam to hold down the price on his books for a long time because he felt that was more fair to the consumer." (Bantam has published all of L'Amour's 109 titles, with 225 million copies in print internationally.) "As far as audio was concerned, Dad felt that it was a relatively expensive product and he wanted to

give as much of a show as he could—as much production value as possible. When Jenny Frost suggested doing the programs like old-time radio, he was very excited."

As a supervising producer of L'Amour's audio titles, Beau has worked closely with Bantam to carry out his father's legacy, particularly adapting L'Amour's short fiction to audio. "The line is unique in that my father gave us the freedom to change what he wrote, and each script is a specially written adaptation." Beau has written (and directed) several scripts himself-including Merrano of the Dry Country and One for the Mojave Kid-and has worked with writers on others. "What we try to do is find all of the little nuggets of gold in the original stories, identifying the main elements of plot and theme and then focusing single-mindedly on bringing those things out and interweaving them. We're not attempting to transcribe the short story to the tape—these are complete adaptations."

Thus far, the L'Amour formula is proving successful, not only in the predictable places like Texas and the West—home to a solid base of loyal L'Amour fans—but across the country, according to Frost. "In terms of

marketing and promotion, L'Amour is treated as any major author. though we key support to primary markets and target groups," she says, adding that the tapes do "exceedingly well" in truck stops. Beginning in May, Bantam will launch a Father's Day promotion, offering a free copy of a book by Louis L'Amour with each of the company's three boxed sets: Chick Bowdrie; Riding for the Brand; and Law of the Desert Born.

In the meantime, the Louis L'Amour Theater continues to "add a station a day," according to Charles Whaley, president of CKW & Associates, who says that the program is helping to bring back "the golden

age of radio." CKW began syndicating the show last fall to country and talk radio stations across the country, some of which report standing room only at local "listening parties." According to Whaley, the 26-hour-long radio shows have wide appeal: "Listeners include not just the 40-to-50-plus age range but people in their 30s who are burned out on television and are seeking some kind of entertainment."

Adds Beau L'Amour: "We're hoping that radio will help to reach that large number of consumers who still are not aware of audio. Hopefully, through the show, we can educate the public about the product." L'Amour says he will continue to work with Bantam well into the future on audio adaptations of his father's remaining works. "We still have a long way to go."



L'Amour: riding into the sunset with a million in sales in the saddlebag.

# Radio Memories: The WLS National Barn Dance

by William J. Felchmer
"Hey, key, key, the bayloft gang
is here... Hello, hello, hello, everybody, sverywhere; well, well welcome to your ole Alka Selizer National Barn Dance."

The above introduction to The WL5 National Barn Dance became a familiar one to radio listeners in . 1933. The WLS National Barn Dance was one of the most Impor-Dance was one of the most impor-tant music shows to emerge from the golden age of radio, in fact, during its long radio history, the program would prove to be the spawning ground for a number of country music acts which would later achieve great forme in the en-tortainment world. tertainment world.
The WLS National Barn Dance.

which was known as The Aluddin Play-party and The Old Fiddlers' Hour during its early days, made its premiers on April 19, 1924. its premiere on April 19, 1944.
Originally broadcast from "the old hayloft" in Chicago's Sherman Hotel, the show later moved to the Eighth Street Theater.

Almost from the beginning The National Barn Dance, as the show was later called, became a solid hit with radio lister.ers. It also proved to be a boon with Windy City residents, who rou-Windy City residents, who rou-tinely packed the rafters at the Eighth Street Theater in order to catch the popular broadcast in person. By 1928, when admission to most radio shows was free, fans of The National Barn Dance were eagerly paying the adult price of 75 (135 for kids) to gain admission to the theater.

Eventually, The WLS National

Barn Dance became one of the beam Dance became one of the hottest shows on midio, with its Saturday night broadcast being heard by millions of listeners nationwide. By 1928, the show was being broadcast to selected markets around the country.

A truly national hookup took place on September 30, 1933, when NBC Radio added the prowhen NBC kadio added the pro-gram to its Blue Network. Com-ing aboard as a national sponsor was Alka Seltzer, which added its moniker to the show's title.

When one thinks of the talent that graced The WLS National Barn Daner through the years, it's easy to see why the show was so popular, especially during the glory years of the late 1920s, '30s, and '40s.

One of the first stars to emerge via The National Barn Dance Was Bradley Kincald, who was billed on the show as The Kentucky Mountain Boy with His Houn Dog Guitar." Kincaid, who recorded such tunes as 'The Fatal Wed-ding" and " Bury Me on the Prairie," starred on WLS from 1926 to 1931. He is regarded by many music historians today as the "Dean of the Folk Singers."

Also appearing regularly on The IVLS National Barn Dance were many other popular hillbilly /country music acts, including the Maple City Four, Louise Massey and The Westerners, and



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Sheet music from 1945 pictures Jenny Lou Carson of WLS and Georgia Mae of WBZ.

... "Are you ready, Hezzie?" (followed by the sound of a slide whistle), brought immediate smiles to the people out in radio land.

Lulubelle and Scotty.

One of the most popular musical acts to grace the Chicago sical acts to grace the Chicago radio show was the vaunted Hoosier Hot Shots, a novelty band whose members included Paul "Hezzle" Trietsch on the zither, whistle, and washboard; brother Ken Trietsch on the banjo and guitar; Charles Otto "Gabe" Ward on the clannet; and Frank Kettering on the bass fid-

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

WLS NATIONAL BARN DANCE

This Barn Dance souvenir program dates from 1933.

dle. Signed to The Bern Dance in 1933, the Hot Shots' signature opening, "Are you ready, Hezzie?" (followed by the sound of a slide whistle), often brought immediate smiles to the people out in radio land.
The WLS National Barn Dance

featured a number of then-unknown performers who would later rise to national promilater use to national promi-nence. One such artist was Gene Autry, also known as "The Singing Cowboy," who was a regular cast member on the show from 1930-34.

Also hitting it big as a result of The Barn Dance was Patry Montana, "The Yodeling Cowgirl." Born Rubye Blevins in Hot Springs, Ark, on October 30, 1914, Montana had come to Chloago in 1933 to visit the World's Fair. While in the Windy City, the future country music great hooked up with a Western



On Your Radio - Court to Court -

A position from 1945 features the Hoosier Hot Shots, one of the more popular acts on The WLS National Barn Dance. The reverse bears a handwritten message from Gabe Ward, playing the clerinet.

swing band called the Prairie Ramblers. The act then became a featured number on The WLS National Barn Dence in 1935.

Yet another country music great who got his start on The Burn Dance was the introductal Red Foley. A talent scout for WLS had roley. A talent scout for WLS had spotted the youthful Foley at Georgetown College in Kentucky. The radio scout then offered Foley the proverbial chance of a lifetime the opportunity to sing on the famous WLS National Barn Denor. Borrowing \$75 from his fa-ther, young Red leaped at the op-portunity and made tracks to portunity and made tracks to Chicago, where he appeared on the Windy City radio program. Foley then joined the regular cast on The Bern Dence, performing as both a soloist and a member of the Cumberland Ridge Runners.

Muskians were not the only performers to get a career boost from The WLS National Ram Dence. Several comics, including George Gobel and Fat Buttram, can rightfully lay claim to The Barn Dence as the launching pad for their successful careers in show business.

In May 1960 The WLS National Barn Dence finally closed its doors. It was, however, not the final death knell, as the show was later picked up in the early 1960s by WCN, which broadcast it briefly as both a radio and TV program.
The WLS National Burn Dance

spawned a number of similar shows across the nation. Principal among these was the IVSAI Gre

among these was the WSM Grand Ole Opry, which premiered in 1925. During its long years on the air The WLS National Barn Dance not only spawned a slew of radio show imitators but a vast array of Interesting memorabilia as well. Country music collectibles have been receiving more attention as of late, with many enthusiasts looking to artifacts from The Na-tional Barn Dance as part of their prime search.

Among the Bern Dence items Among the Barn Dence items available are sheet music, programs, posters, playbills, post-cards, publicity stills, autographs, and other memorabilia. Signed photographs and letters from The National Barn Dance cast members

are especially in demand by collectors. A Red Foley autographed portrait from his Barn Dance days would be worth about \$85 today A signed, handwritten letter by Foley would command an even Foley would command an even higher price - perhaps \$100 or more - especially if it was penned on WLS stationery.

It's interesting to note that many Bern Dance cast members handled their own fan mail, particulated in the last price and the state of the

ticularly in their early years with the show. Louise Massey, Jenny Lou Carson, Red Blanchard, Patsy Mentana, and other performers on the program often penned hand written letters on the dis-tinctive WLS Prairie Farmer staonery. Letters of this nature are usually valued from \$15 to \$30 or more, depending on condition

and content.

WLS National Barn Dance programs and yearbooks are also popular items with collectors. A souvenir program from 1933, for example, carries an illustration of example, carries on illustration of a couple square dancing. Inside are 16-pages of photos and lexit on the cast, including a center-pread picturing the entire crew. A value of about \$20 m \$25 would be appropriate for this item.

The WLS annual scrapbooks or

earbooks, as might be expected, feature photos and articles on the various cast members of The Na-tional Bern Dance for a given year. Many collectors will find these scrapbooks of immense value for

research purposes.

A variety of posters and playbills announcing The National Barn Dance can make ideal display items, if one is lucky enough to find them in collectable enddtion. One such poster announces "Mammoth Stage Show - W.L.S. Barn Dance - 30 Radio Stars." Heading the lineup is the Arkansas Woodchopper, Luther Ossenbrink, one of the all-time fivorites on The Barn Dance.

Some Bern Dence stars release come para Lunce stars release their own collections of songs. Lulu Belle's & Skyland Scotiy's Home Folk Songs from the 1940s! one such songbook. Originally priced at 50c, this item is now worth over \$20 in top condition.

National Barn Dence sheet mu sic is also an interesting and dec rative collectible. Sheets can be found carrying a variety of WLC stars on their covers, such as the stars on their covers, such as the Maple City Four, Patry Montan. Louise Massey and The Westeri ers, and Jenny Lou Carson. Pric are fairly reasonable for most on amples, which run in the \$5 ran

Although most people may Nashville with the early country music radio program, it was in fact The WLS National Barn Dan which proved to be the early ding force in the genre. Today, ti fact is just beginning to be reco nized once again.



This handwritten letter on WLS stationery from Barn Dance member Blanchard, dated May 7, 1958, discusses the formation of Red's fan cl

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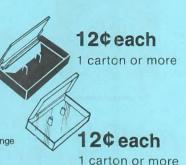
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